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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (c)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America:

draft resolution

Situation of human rights in Cuba

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and other applicable human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also that all States have an obligation to fulfil the commitments they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Taking particular note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/66 of 7 March 1995, in which the Commission recognized with deep appreciation the efforts of the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate concerning the situation of human rights in Cuba,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Expressing concern about continuing serious violations of human rights in Cuba, of which the majority are violations of civil and political rights, as outlined in the interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba submitted to the General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur, 3/

Welcoming the authorization granted to a delegation comprising representatives of four international human rights organizations to visit Cuba and encouraging the Government of Cuba to grant further access to such organizations,

Welcoming the release of a number of political prisoners,

Recalling the continued failure of the Government of Cuba to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights with regard to its resolution 1995/66, including its refusal to permit the Special Rapporteur to visit Cuba,

1. Commends the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights for his interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba;

2. Expresses its full support for the work of the Special Rapporteur on Cuba;

3. Calls once more upon the Government of Cuba to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur by permitting him full and free access to establish contact with the Government and the citizens of Cuba so that he may fulfil the mandate entrusted to him;

4. Regrets profoundly the numerous violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba as described in the report of the Special Rapporteur to the Commission on Human Rights and in his interim report; 4/

5. Urges the Government of Cuba to ensure freedom of expression and assembly, and the freedom to demonstrate peacefully, including by allowing political parties and non-governmental organizations to function freely in the country, and by reforming legislation in this area;

6. Welcomes the ratification by the Government of Cuba of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; 5/

7. Calls especially upon the Government of Cuba to release the numerous persons detained for activities of a political nature, including those specifically mentioned in the report of the Special Rapporteur who suffer from inadequate medical care while imprisoned or whose rights as journalists or jurists are impeded or denied;

3/ A/50/663.

4/ E/CN.4/1995/52.

5/ Resolution 39/46, annex.

8. Calls upon the Government of Cuba to adopt the other measures proposed in the interim report of the Special Rapporteur to bring the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba into conformity with international law and international human rights instruments and to end all violations of human rights by, inter alia, ratifying and effectively implementing those international human rights instruments to which it is not yet party, ceasing the persecution and punishment of citizens for reasons related to freedom of expression and peaceful association, respecting due process, and granting permission for access to the prisons by non-governmental humanitarian organizations and international humanitarian agencies;

9. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-first session.